

## NEXT UHCA MEETING MARCH 7

ALICE BIRNEY ELEMENTARY  
AUDITORIUM / 4345 CAMPUS AVENUE  
6:45 pm CRIME WATCH, 7:00 pm MEETING

### TOPIC: EDUCATION CENTER OUTREACH

Featured speaker: Richard Barrera,  
District D Representative, San Diego  
Unified School Board



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University Heights Community Association March 2019



# NEWS

## SHARE YOUR VISION

This is your chance to share your vision for the Normal School Property, the most important piece of property in UH. School District Trustee Richard Barrera and UHCA invite you to help shape the future of our community at the March UHCA meeting.

UHCA surveyed the neighborhood last spring with incredible feedback. For example, 80 percent of your neighbors chose "a new community park" as their top priority. According to the Uptown Community Plan, only 10 percent of Population-Based Park Requirements have been secured so far. With the massive increase in density planned for UH, now is the time to preserve as much open space as possible. A majority of our neighbors want to see a recreation center or community center/library on the site.

According to the Uptown Community Plan, recreation center requirements are estimated at 40,032 SF, but unfortunately there are no existing or planned recreation centers in Uptown. Similarly, the aquatic complexes requirement is calculated at 1.18 and Uptown has no existing or planned aquatic complexes. University Heights is also in desperate need of a dog park. The joint use facility at Alice Birney has become unsafe and unhealthy for the school children.

The Normal School property is a neighborhood "Node," where several major transit corridors intersect at El Cajon Blvd., Park Blvd., and Normal St. The Regional Plan identifies Light Rail Transit, additional Rapid Transit, and street-car service through this intersection. The possibility of a roundabout is being considered, however. Perhaps a new comprehensive traffic study needs to be conducted at this already congested and dangerous intersection.

Pedestrian safety is also an issue at the southern end of the Normal School Property at Washington St. and Normal St. The design for the Normal St. Promenade was recently unveiled by the city, SANDAG, and Uptown Community Parking District. No traffic study was conducted at this intersection and the design has no plan to link the promenade to the Normal School property. Also, this design completely ignores the upcoming redevelopment of the Normal School

and the DMV properties. The University Heights portion of the promenade, between Lincoln and Washington, will be a lackluster parking lot because the focus of the promenade will be the intersection at University Ave., without regard to the historical significance of several buildings on the Normal School site.

Now is the time to speak up. Please don't miss this meeting. If you can't make this meeting, please send feedback to: stumcgraw@gmail.com or PO BOX 33032, San Diego, CA 92163.

Thanks! — *Stu McGraw, UHCA Board, Uptown Planning Committee*

## SDUSD BEGINS ED CENTER OUTREACH

Following a "get organized" meeting in December, San Diego Unified School District staff and leadership were busy throughout January and February researching past proposals and recent suggestions related to the future of its eleven-acre Education Center property that runs south from Meade Ave. between Campus Ave. and Normal Street.

As UHCA News reported last month, school district officials are committed to pursuing an authentic, collaborative

*Continued on page 3*

### LOOKING AHEAD:

#### THE APRIL UHCA MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

ALICE BIRNEY ELEMENTARY  
AUDITORIUM / 4345 CAMPUS AVENUE  
6:45 pm CRIME WATCH, 7:00 pm MEETING

#### TOPIC: TOWER GARDENS: SUSTAINABLE FOOD GROWTH FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Featured speaker: JulieAnn Engel  
Come hear about a fun, easy, and creative way to eat healthier and grow your own food! JulieAnn has been eating from her Tower Garden for more than 3 ½ years. The taste is extraordinary, and the freshness and nutrition unsurpassed!

## WE CALL IT A TAG SALE SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019 • TROLLEY BARN PARK

Back by popular demand, the UHCA Tag Sale – the Ostrich Nest – is here again! You may know it as a garage sale, a yard sale, or even a swap meet, depending on where you grew up. By any name, it's a great way to sell those used items others may have more use for than you. This is the place to do it. Our very own community tag sale right here in University Heights has become an annual event! On Sunday, April 7, 2019, we will be setting up in Trolley Barn Park to hold the second annual UHCA community-wide tag sale.

The inspiration for this event comes from my summers in Arlington, VT, where a town-wide sale called Norman's Attic is quite the yearly happening. The name honors former local resident and iconic artist, Norman Rockwell. Since Norman never lived in San Diego – and most of

us don't have attic space – we named our sale the Ostrich Nest with a nod to our neighborhood heritage.

The idea of a sharing community brings our UH residents and surrounding neighbors together to sell their stuff at the Ostrich Nest. It's a great way to reuse, renew, and recycle and maybe find some treasures too! Every penny you make selling is yours and the money we raise from booth registration will go toward improving Trolley Barn Park.

Come participate and see what everyone is talking about. Start cleaning out that closet, garage, or storage unit and register online now for a spot to sell your stuff! For more information and to register, visit our tag sale page on the UHCA website: [www.uhsd.org](http://www.uhsd.org), or email us at [tagsale@uhsd.org](mailto:tagsale@uhsd.org) — *Julie Rubtchinsky*



2018 Tag Sale at Trolley Barn Park. Don't miss the 2nd annual event in April.

### SAVE THE DATE CELEBRATE PARTY ON PARK

Evening Festival on Park Boulevard  
Saturday, April 13, 5-8 pm  
Food & Drink Samplings  
Live Entertainment  
Hosted by the University Heights  
Community Association 1984-2019

### SAVE THE DATE: MAJOR RECYCLING EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 18  
8 AM-1 PM.

ED CENTER PARKING LOT:  
Campus Ave. (Between Tyler & Van Buren)

#### MAKE YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE! CLEAR OUT THE BRUSH! CLEAN THE GARAGE!

Recycle Your Electronics, Greenery,  
Trash, Batteries, Lightbulbs

## ALERT!

Prevent Fires in the  
Vermont St. Canyon!

Sign the Petition.  
We Will Deliver to the City.

Go to: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/brush-management-under-vermont-street-bridge>

# MEMBERSHIP

**JOIN TODAY AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
**OUR SUCCESS IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FROM AREA RESIDENTS LIKE YOU.**



## NEW /RENEWING MEMBERS

### GOLDEN OSTRICH

Mary Ellen Rybarczyk, Jessica Colosimo & Case Iest, John Sandbower & Craig James, Mary Anne Stevens, Michele Morgan & Steve Winchell



### HOUSEHOLD

Michelle Livermore, David & Erin MacKinnon, Kirsten Chandler, Richard Berutti\*, Randall Wilde, Carissa May, John Leier, Stephen Doster, Anne Marie Sachs & Adam Hill, Daniel Huntley & Jennifer Malloch, Jean Andrew, Martha Carey & Elisabeth Fidler, Carl Latkowski, Christine Edlund, Judy & Weston Riffle, James Gerber & Marion DeKoning, John Ross, Sharon Nelson, Jim Seagrim, Elaine Bisconti

\*Indicates new and renewing members who have made a donation in excess of the cost of membership. Thanks to all for your generous support of the work UHCA does to ensure that our wonderful community remains wonderful!

**JOIN, RENEW OR DONATE ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.**



Clip & Return to: UHCA PO BOX 33032 San Diego, CA 92163

## Yearly Membership

- \$25 Household
- \$45 Membership & mailed UHCA News
- \$75 Business Membership
- \$100 Golden Ostrich

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

- NEW
- RENEWAL

University Heights Community Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org

## Donor

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation for Keeping up the Good Work (Donate as a member or non-member)

## Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!

- Beautification & Planning** Keep UH beautiful.
- Blockwalker** Help deliver newsletters to UH residences and businesses.
- Marketing & Merchandising** Promote UHCA via marketing/advertising, visual arts, photography, and product merchandising.
- Membership** Help meet record goals for 2019 membership and meeting attendance.
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch** Join your neighbors to keep UH safe.
- UHCA News** Write articles, edit articles, take photos or sell ads; these are just a few of the many ways to contribute your talent, creativity and energy to our paper.
- Program & Events** Plan and oversee the various events and general meetings.



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## UHCA NEWS

**EDITORIAL BOARD** Maureen Markey, Phyllis Kessel, Nan McGraw

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** Carol Neidenberg, Maureen Markey, Nan McGraw, Phyllis Kessel, Isabel Schechter, Stu McGraw, John Kennedy, MaryBeth Chruden, Oz Blackaller, Felipe Gonzalez, Justine Hall, Bill Smith, Steve Wade, Elaine Sinsuan, Randy Wilde, Julie Rubtchinsky, Sara Persson, Jennifer Ayala, Patti Wild

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**PHOTOS** David Harrison

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Susan Holts Susan@Susanholts.com

Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters, and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. The deadline for submission is the 5th of the month. Email submissions to uhcnews@yahoo.com. We retain the right to edit submissions for style and content.

## UHCA OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Carol Neidenberg  
 president@uhsd.org or (619) 549-3996

**VICE PRESIDENT** Maureen Markey

**SECRETARY** Kurt Hermansen

**TREASURER** Stuart McGraw

**WEBSITE** uhsd.org

**FACEBOOK** /universityheightscommunityassociation

**INSTAGRAM** /UniversityHeightsSD



## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



Zone Watch Coordinators manage email lists of participants wishing to receive University Heights crime watch information and updates. Download more on the UH Zone Watch program at uhsd.org or contact your zone's coordinator, or Nan McGraw.

- 1 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com
- 2 Pam Isaacs** pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3 Mary Lange** mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
- 4 Christopher Hutchinson** christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com
- 5 Tamara Zyhlyj** tamara@tamarahomes.com
- 6 Mark Koopman** mkzw6@yahoo.com



### CRIME WATCH SIGNS

UHCA installed new signs recently. If you know of an old sign that should be replaced or a location that needs a sign, please email UHCA Secretary Kurt Hermansen at: kdh@habeaskurtus.com.



### SLOW DOWN SIGNS

Speeding on neighborhood streets in UH is a chronic problem. Shaving time off trips by speeding has small benefits and high risks. Set your alarm clock 15 minutes ahead and slow down.

## UH PHONE BOOK

**Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical** 911  
**Non-Emergency** Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. 619-531-2000  
 Online: non-emergency problems: www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done  
**SD City Services non-emergency:** street lights, pot holes, etc. 619-527-7500  
 Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments  
**SD City Services emergency** 619-527-7500  
 Online: www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments  
 Storm damage: fallen trees, flooding, clogged storm drains  
**Alert San Diego** reverse 911 notification to mobile phones for emergencies  
 Requiring evacuations www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/  
**2-1-1 San Diego**  
 Free Community Resources, such as CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and Covered California 211 or 858-300-1211  
**Abandoned Vehicles** 858-495-7856  
**Alice Birney Elementary Office** 619-497-3500  
**Animals / Non-Emergency** 619-767-2675  
**Brush and Weed Abatement** 619-533-4444  
**Code Violations** 619-236-5500  
**Crime Stoppers Tip Line** 888-580-TIPS (8477)  
**Department of Environmental Health** public health/rats/rodents 858-694-2888  
**Downed Power Lines / SDG&E** 800-411-7343  
**Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes** 619-515-3525  
**Narcotics** suspicious drug house / anonymous 619-531-2468  
**Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)** 619-692-4945  
 Vacation home security check, welfare of home-bound, patrolling business districts, homeland security support

**SDPD Community Relations Officers:**  
 David Surwilo (dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov) 619-692-4858  
 Ricardo Pinon (rpinon@pd.sandiego.gov) 619-692-4821  
**SDPD Western Division** 5215 Gaines Street 619-692-4800  
**Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service** 800-252-4613  
**Suicide Prevention—National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
 For immediate confidential, suicide crisis counseling 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call toll-free, San Diego County Access & Crisis Line, 1-888-724-7240. Other resources: Lifeline Chat at suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat, 1-800-273-TALK (8255). #BeThe1To at www.bethe1to.com; Website: up2sd.org; call local hotline at 888-724-7240 for live chat, 4-10 pm weekdays  
**UHDCD** University Heights Community Development Corp 619-297-3166  
**University Heights Public Library** 4193 Park Blvd 619-692-4912  
**UH Zone Watch Coordinator** Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com 619-260-0668  
**Graffiti:** In Progress Emergency: 911  
 Report Online: apps.sandiego.gov/streetdiv/ email photos: cericson@pd.sandiego.gov  
 Graffiti Hotline: 619-257-7500  
**SD Vector Control** mosquitoes / ticks / rats 858-694-2888  
 Online: vector@sdcounty.ca.gov  
**Https://getitdone.force.com/** Download and use this app if you see a non-emergency problem in the city like potholes, graffiti, etc..  
**If all else fails, email** TRenner@sandiego.gov at Councilmember Chris Ward's office.

### DISASTER CONTACTS

In case of a major disaster such as an earthquake or fire, have two out of state contacts on speed dial. When the power is off cordless phones won't work. Have a basic phone you can plug into a phone jack that you can use for calls.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAROL NEIDENBERG

## HAPPY 35TH BIRTHDAY, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION!

If you stepped back in time to 1984, you would have been thrilled to buy Apple's first Macintosh computer. You might feel like you won the lottery, for the average monthly rent was \$350, a movie ticket was \$2.50, and a gallon of gas cost \$1.10.

And then on January 12, 1984, the first meeting of the newly formed University Heights Community Association (UHCA) took place at Alice Birney Elementary School Auditorium. The purpose was to inform the community that a developer was going to build a high density apartment building where the Trolley Barn Park is now. Since that meeting 35 years ago, we've accomplished many things. One of the most impressive is the membership and volunteerism of residents. Thank you to those who lend a hand by volunteering at cleanups, delivering the UHCA News, writing for this paper,

helping at events such as Cookies with the Cops, Caroling in the Heights, Recycling Day, and Movies in the Park. In addition, we appreciate those businesses that donate gift cards and join UHCA. We also thank those who attend the monthly meetings, ask questions, and bring yummy desserts to the annual holiday meeting in December. Together with many others, including our local elected representatives, two big, visible projects happened: the development of the land that became the Trolley Barn Park and the rebuilding of the Vermont Street Bridge. These remain as visible signs of community involvement and advocacy.

Without you, University Heights would not be as wonderful as it is. Let's raise our glasses and toast to celebrating UHCA's birthday and to another great 35 years!

## BIRNEY FIELD CLOSING

Renovations to the Alice Birney Joint Use Facility will begin April 8. Dogs off leash have dug holes and left excrement, creating health and safety hazards that the school and the community can no longer tolerate. The grass field will be closed to the public, but the track around the field will be available for use.

School District Trustee Richard Bar-

ra, Principal Amanda Hammond-Williams, Coach Lord, and representatives from Birney PTA and Birney Foundation are working together with the UH Recreation Council and Tyler Renner to carefully balance the needs of community residents who enjoy this public asset. In the meantime, dog owners are encouraged to use the grass field in front of the Teacher's Training Annex.

### ED CENTER OUTREACH

*Continued from page 1*

process that engages the UH community and other stakeholders. They hope the result will be a more suitable facility for its staff that also becomes a major community gathering space and valued amenity for the neighborhood. To further that goal, district officials have formed a task force to help them engage the community and share their ideas for the site as they evolve.

To begin the public outreach process, at the March UHCA meeting, Richard Barrera, Board Trustee for District D, will discuss the process the district intends to undertake. But more importantly, he has come to hear from the community and answer your questions.

This is an important meeting. If you care about the future of University Heights, you should be present because, before it does anything, the school district needs to know if its administrative headquarters should stay or go. If it stays, the collaborative site planning process can begin in earnest. If it goes, all bets are off. So, come to this meeting to listen and make your voice heard.

While you're there, please consider becoming an UHCA member. Every membership we add gives UH that much more clout and you that much more control over the future of your community. — William Smith, Member, Uptown Planning Committee, and Member, UHCA Board of Directors

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The February 7, 2019, meeting of the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) opened with the Crime Watch portion. Members of the audience raised concerns about homeless camps that have affected certain areas: under the Vermont Street Bridge abutment at the southern end and at the western edge of canyons over 163 near Ninth, Hayes, and Tenth Avenues. Councilmember Chris Ward's aide, Tyler Renner, is working with affected residents to arrange cleanup of these camps.

UHCA Board Member, Bill Smith, conducted the general meeting. The following reps gave their reports:

- Nick Serrano from State Assemblymember and Majority Whip Todd Gloria's office. AB 262 was introduced to establish specific roles and responsibilities during an outbreak of a communicable disease such as Hepatitis C. For more info, go to: a78.asmdc.org.

- Toni Duran from State Senator and President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins' office reported on Senator Atkins' efforts for funding SB1 on climate change and SB2 on homelessness. See sd39.senate.ca.gov.

- Brandon Torres from San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher's office introduced himself as the new community rep for University Heights. Information: www.supervisor.nathanfletcher.com.

MaryBeth Chruden reported about the upcoming Tag Sale to be held on Sunday, April 7, from 9 am to 1 pm at Trolley Barn Park.

Isabel Schechter encouraged people to join the UH Friends of the Library and become involved.

Our guest speaker, Councilmember Chris Ward, discussed his concerns for the city and provided direct answers to our questions. Chris announced the ordinance that bans polystyrene products (Styrofoam) and limits single-use plastics, which severely affect our health and environment.

As Chair of the Regional Taskforce on the Homeless, Councilmember Ward is working to obtain Homeless Emergency Aid Program funding for programs and resources that will increase access

to services and housing. North Park recently launched the Mid-City Homeless Outreach Program, which employs a full-time street outreach worker connecting homeless people in North Park and City Heights to much needed resources. The City Council repealed vehicle habitation penalties and expanded safe parking opportunities throughout the city. The City Council plans to update the inclusionary housing policies, which could require developers to build more affordable housing on-site. Growing smartly means density near transit. Councilmember Ward has asked for a request for proposals for a mixed-use residential project with at least 20 percent affordable housing units and additional parking for Fire Station # 8 on the parcel formerly occupied by the Mission Hills Library.

Other issues Councilmember Ward is working on include:

- With the school district, the Rec Council, and the Humane Society, to remedy off-leash dog issues in our Joint Use Field at Birney, which requires closure of the field for maintenance and repairs in April.

- The possibility of a round-about at the intersection of El Cajon Boulevard, Park Blvd., and Normal Streets for better traffic circulation. When residents raised safety concerns in crossing Washington St., he agreed to request a traffic study of Washington Street at Cleveland.

- With the mayor on new regulations for the unresolved vacation rental issue.

- Advocating for a cleanup under the Vermont Street Bridge. Please contact the mayor's office to push for this.

- The Normal Street Promenade vision, which will be presented to Uptown Planners for a vote at their meeting on March 5 at the Joyce Beers Center.

- In a challenging budget year, fighting for adequate budgets for the police and fire departments, library hours, park and rec facilities to remain open, tree trimming, brush abatement, and better lighting on the Vermont Street Bridge.

— Nan McGraw

# SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 21

## 17TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

### TROLLEY BARN PARK, 11 AM - 3 PM

Open to all children ages 1 through 12 and their parents, this free event will once again be held on Easter Sunday, April 21. The event is sponsored by the Imperial Court de San Diego, the LGBT Center, State Assemblyman Todd Gloria, and Councilmember Chris Ward. The day includes Easter baskets, cotton

candy, popcorn, face painting, and special visits from the Easter Bunny, and a bike raffle. Financial sponsorship for the children's Easter Egg Hunt is provided by local businesses, bars, and donations from the community. To learn more, please contact Nicole at (619) 241-5672 or Regina at (619) 288-1183.



# PLUME

## NEREA URTASUN

Some people are so well known and respected that they are known by first name alone; no last name is necessary. Nerea. A resident of University Heights (UH) for more than six years, Nerea and her fiancé Nathan have been wonderful additions to the neighborhood. Nerea first moved to UH and lived on Park Blvd right in the heart of the Business District. Four years ago, they bought a beautiful bungalow in UH. From the reports we receive from our confidential informants, they've been great neighbors. We hope they stay for many more years.



We first got to know Nerea when she began working for former Board of Supervisors, District 4 Supervisor, Ron Roberts. As our community representative, she was always available to liaison between the Board and UH residents. Our relationship with Supervisor Roberts was always excellent, and Nerea helped to foster that close relationship by arranging face-to-face meetings and letting us know when county grants were available, including those that led to the street pole banner program and Movies in the Park. She routinely came to our monthly community meetings, made announcements, and solved community problems. Known for her wonderfully warm personality, as shown in her smile and laugh, Nerea was the consummate

county representative: responsive, accessible, and personable.

On behalf of UHCA and all the UH residents, we'd like to thank Nerea for her years of service. Although we will miss her as our go-to county community representative, we were delighted to learn that she has a new job and will continue her career in public service in the Planning Department, representing the entire county. We will miss her, but we know that one of our great neighbors still will be a UH resident. A bouquet of plumes to Nerea!

## Law Office of Rosemary Leonard

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Conveniently located in University Heights



# MARCH 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>The Point Clean Up</b> Golden Gate btwn RI & Del 1:30 - 3:30 pm
<b>3</b> <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> UHCA News April articles due <b>Uptown Planners Meeting</b> Joyce Beers Center, Uptown Complex, 6 pm <b>Board of Ed Meeting</b> Eugene Brucker Auditorium 5 pm <b>Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras)</b>	<b>6</b> UHCDC Meeting 4452 Park Blvd. Suite 104, 6:30 pm <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>7</b> UH Rec Council Meeting Alice Birney Library, 5:30 pm <b>UHCA Meeting</b> Alice Birney Auditorium, 6:45 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm <b>Daylight Savings Time begins</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Hillcrest Town Council</b> Joyce Beers Center, 6 p <b>Friends of the Library</b> UH Chapter, UH Branch Library, 6 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Collection	<b>15</b> <b>Preview Book Sale (Friends members only)</b> UH Library, 3 - 6 pm 	<b>16</b> <b>Book Sale (open to the public),</b> UH Library, 8 - 3 pm
<b>17</b> Saint Patrick's Day <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm <b>Bag O' Books sale (open to the public)</b> UH Library, 12 noon-4pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>North Park Planning Committee</b> North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way, 6:30 pm <b>Board of Ed Meeting</b> Eugene Brucker Auditorium 5 pm	<b>20</b> <b>UH Library Task Force Meeting</b> UH Branch Library, 6:30 pm <b>Spring Begins</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>April UHCA News out</b>	<b>27</b> <b>UH Book Club &amp; Salon</b> UH Library, 6:30 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9 am - 2 pm						

PET OF THE MONTH

# LOSING LILY

I used to think, it's just a bird. A bird that can live to forty, that my wife got for her mother, who passed away a year later. Then it became our bird, until my wife passed away fourteen years later. Then it became my bird.



Lily is thankfully home again.

It was clear to everyone that Lily had bonded with me, but I didn't realize how much I had bonded with her until one day this January when she flew out the door in the blink of an eye. When I moved to San Diego to be with MaryBeth, I thought it would be a good idea to let Lily grow her wings. She would need a fighting chance in a house with two cats, and I was sure we would be careful. But that's the thing about accidents. They happen anyway.

Parrots are among nature's most intelligent creatures, but her sudden escape reminded me she was still an animal acting on instinct with no knowledge of the cold and dangerous world outside. After several hours of frantic and then hopeless searching, despair set in. If it wasn't for MaryBeth, our friends, and my University Heights neighbors, I don't know what would have become of me. Though childless, I began to understand how a parent might feel after losing a child in a busy shopping center, or worse.

To point myself in the right direction, I asked The Google how to find a missing bird. Search nearby under every bush. Put the cage outside with food. Play bird sounds and call to your bird. Post on social media and lost pet websites. Put up flyers, lots of flyers. Let local vets and bird stores know your bird is missing. You're trying to catch a break, so put a lot of bets on the table.

We thought the break had come when Channel 10 called to do a story. Their team did a fabulous job, but the real break didn't come until a Hilton employee named Daniel saw something colorful out of the corner of his eye. Appar-

ently, Lily had had enough wildlife after four days and decided to check into the Homewood Suites down the hill in Mission Valley. Daniel coaxed Lily off the sidewalk and onto his fingers, then sequestered her safely in his office where she enjoyed a sumptuous meal of crackers, fruit, and water. Meanwhile, Daniel's wife and five-year-old son searched the Internet for missing parrots in San Diego and found a match on one of the lost and found sites we had posted to.

Amazingly, another Hilton employee knew that one of their co-workers worked part-time at a bird store and asked her to come in to look at Daniel's new feathered friend. She knew immediately not only that this was an easily identifiable rare breed of parrot, but whose parrot it was! Christine had seen our poster when she took her own bird to the vet that very day and had even talked to MaryBeth when she called the store. Within minutes we got calls from both Daniel and Christine. Our somber meal turned joyous when it was clear the bird was Lily. Within hours we had Lily at the vet for a checkup and then safely home.

Our bird had a four-day head start in the eighth largest city in America and we found her. Luck played a part, but I credit the wonderful people of University Heights for helping Lily find her way home. The experience proved what many of you have already come to know, that University Heights is not just a place on a map, but a place in our hearts. — William Smith

# CUEVA BAR WINE CLUB

Have you ever wondered how important it is to be a part of the community you live and work in?

Shortly after we arrived in University Heights from the East Coast, we continued on our new journey by opening Cueva Bar. We immediately experienced neighbors and leaders of the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) demonstrating their support of our new business.

We believe that this support had a great impact on the exciting news we have to share with you. After five years of per-

severance to expand our wine license in order to offer a wine club at Cueva Bar, we were finally granted approval! We are so excited to share with you that you can now take home your favorite Cueva Bar wines in addition to signing up for the upcoming wine club. The wine club will include a couple of membership tiers, complimentary monthly wine tastings, and other fun perks!

Thank you, wonderful neighbors and UHCA, for your continued support. We appreciate you! To join our wine club and for more details, please email us at [info@cuevabar.com](mailto:info@cuevabar.com). — Oz Blackaller

*The San Diego History Center*  
 Invites you to celebrate  
**Makers of San Diego History**  
*Saturday, March 23, 5:30-7:00pm*  
 Dinner, Program & Live Auction  
 The Grand Ballroom, The Prado

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 for their struggles and triumphs

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 California Senate President Pro Tempore

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FOOD AND BEVERAGES

REVIEW

# THE ORIGINAL PICKLE STORE

It would be hard to call the recent popularity of fermented foods a trend considering that it's one of the oldest food preservation methods in the book. The practice of placing vegetables, or really any other food, into a salty brine dates back to ancient times and has popped up in cuisines across various cultures. The technique found its way back into the mainstream and onto the shelves of The Original Pickle Store on Park Blvd.

The recently opened larder serves as a sort of smorgasbord for pickle makers from across the country. You'll find everything from traditional-style dill pickles, to pickled cherry tomatoes, even pickled kelp. But the shelves expand beyond pickles. Shoppers are privy to infused apple cider vinegars (which also make great drink mixers) and a bloody mary mix on tap with growlers to boot.

You'll also find stacks of cookbooks to teach you about the pickling and fermentation processes.

The husband and wife duo who opened the shop aim to share their love of all things fermented with the San Diego

community. They carefully source and curate an artisanal selection of goods from across the U.S. with products from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii. The purveyors buy directly from pickle makers, often from small batch producers who you may be lucky enough to find at a local farmers' market.

With so many options, many of which you may have not tasted before, it can be hard to choose which pickled and fermented items you want to take home. Samples abound in the shop and the owners truly believe in and are passionate about the products they sell. That means you'll not only be able to try dozens of samples, but you'll also get a colorful story about the producers and flavors that went into what you're trying. The Original Pickle Store brings local farmers markets and brands from across the U.S. together in a happy little pickle melting pot. — *Justine Hall*

**THE ORIGINAL PICKLE STORE**  
4075 Park Blvd #101B  
(619) 841-1108  
<https://www.instagram.com/eatexpickles/>



The Original Pickle Store has everything from classic dill pickles to pickled veggies and cocktail mixers.

# THE COFFEE STOP YIPAO COLOMBIAN COFFEE

Today was one of those days that I really needed a good coffee. Last night I worked late, this morning I got up early, and the bus broke down. Outside the wind was cold and humid and the water from the rain was running down the edges of the street.

After ten long minutes, the driver fixed the problem and she drove us to our stop. Mine was 11673, at Madison Avenue and Park Boulevard, a few steps away from the place I planned to visit: Yipao Colombian Coffee.

Walking down Madison, you will find a yellow Willys Jeep parked inside a patio with a small camper adapted as a coffee shop. The way Colombians spell "Jeep-

load" in Spanish sounds like "Yipao." It is the origin of the name of this beloved symbol of the growers' culture: jeeps that were imported en masse after WWII, which replaced the mule as the main vehicle to transport coffee through the steep and rugged mountains.

Yipao offers San Diegans a different approach to Colombian coffee: not mules but Jeeps, and not generic blends but single origins that are socially and environmentally responsible. Behind every cup of coffee there are faces, culture, and a rich diversity that we can taste.

The project aims to offer up to ten high quality Colombian origins, but for now they sell four plus a natural decaf, all of

RESTAURANT REVIEW

# KAIROA BREWING COMPANY



The new indoor/outdoor rooftop space at Kairoa.

If New Zealand's been on your bucket list, you can get a head start in checking out the country's culture and try a taste of its food and brews by heading over to the newly-opened Kairoa Brewing Company at the intersection of Park Boulevard and Madison Avenue. The inspiration for the name is two small towns on the South Island of New Zealand that the owners call home. You may be familiar with co-owner Shanan Spearing who's behind Red House Pizza, right next door to Kairoa. Brewer Joe Peach has more than ten years of experience and aims to fuse the flavors of home with the innovations of San Diego's beer scene.

According to Shanan and Joe, "Kairoa is the culmination of our passion for food, beer, and our original home country of New Zealand. The sweeping landscape with undulating hills, green pastures, lush rainforests, and snow-capped mountains is the perfect mix of rugged beauty and tranquility. Perfect harmony, just like a good beer."

The space certainly reflects that sense with a crisp and clean design. Local architect Jason Maune designed the rooftop level, which accommodates lounge-

style seating, fire pits, games, and a special section for kids. You can choose from covered or open-air seating so on the off chance there's less than ideal weather, you'll still be able to enjoy the views. Inside, the farmhouse style space was inspired by New Zealand's tribal island vibe and offers views of the brewing display so you can see just how your brews are made.

And if beer isn't your thing, there's still plenty to enjoy at Kairoa. They boast a menu featuring traditional dishes with lamb and seafood (there are plenty of vegan and vegetarian choices too) with brunch and dinner options plus tons of seating. So you can go for a traditional table dinner, grab a bite at the bar, or enjoy the rooftop view in super-comfy (and stylish) chairs. You can't beat the bird's eye view of the iconic University Heights sign while enjoying a freshly brewed beer—it doesn't get more local than that. — *Justine Hall*

**KAIROA BREWING COMPANY**  
4601 Park Blvd.  
(619) 295-1355  
<https://www.kairoa.com/>

them directly related to a state or a farm, to the growers, and to the colors that bring joy.

The coffees are limited edition and roasted in San Diego in small batches to main-

tain their freshness. — *Felipe Gonzalez*

**YIPAO COLOMBIAN COFFEE**  
1728 Madison Ave.  
Hours: Mon.-Sat., 7 am- 5 pm.  
Sun., 8 am- 5 pm.



Camila Sanchez, barista at Yipao, serves a customer. Photo: David Harrison

LIBRARY NEWS

# THE UH BRANCH LIBRARY BETWEEN THE COVERS

The University Heights Library will have different programs throughout the month. We hope that you or someone you know can enjoy, learn, or take advantage of some of our resources and events. On Monday, March 11, the library will host a CalFresh Workshop from 9 am to 12 pm. Participants can apply and interview for nutrition benefits (CalFresh) with Feeding San Diego. If approved, you can pick up your EBT card that day or the following day. You do not need an address or a phone number. For questions, call (858) 863-6635. Feeding San Diego's CalFresh (SNAP) workshops are provided in partnership with San Diego County's Health and Human Service Agency.

Calling all teens ages 12 to 18. April is National Poetry Month. We're looking for a great poem to help promote our library! If interested, please submit your poem about our library in person, during open hours between March 8 and April 8. Include your full name, age, grade, and contact information (email and phone number). Prizes for the winners will be gift cards to Westfield Mall.

**Additional programs:**

- Flax Insect Taxidermy Mount with ToshWerks. March 6, 4:30 pm. Gild and mount an amazing insect to create a unique wall hanging. For ages 7 and up. Register online at: <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/flax-insect-taxidermy-workshop>

- Decorative Soapmaking. March 20, 4:30 pm. Create & design your scented soaps. For ages 16 & up. Register online: <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/decorative-soapmaking>

**Regularly scheduled programs:**

- Morning Story Time: Thursdays at 11 am.
- Arts & Crafts: Saturdays all day.
- Puppet Storytime with Caroline & Penelope: 1st & 3rd Saturdays (Mar. 2 & 16 and Apr. 6 & 20) at 11:30 am.

Please check our Facebook page or online calendar or give us a call at (619) 692-4912 for any further questions. Thank you from everyone at the University Heights Library.



**Library Hours**

Monday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Tuesday	11:30 am – 8 pm
Wednesday	11:30 am – 8 pm
Thursday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Friday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Saturday	9:30 am – 6 pm
Sunday	Closed

— Elaine Sinsuan, Branch Manager, University Heights Library, (619) 692-4912, [sandiego.gov](mailto:sandiego.gov)

# THE FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

February was a busy month for our branch with lots of programs and activities. March is no different, and April will be even busier as we celebrate National Library Week and the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of San Diego Public Library! We'll have more details for you in next month's newspaper, but for now, mark your calendars for the week of April 7-11.

The members of the Friends of UH Library support our branch by volunteering for programs and activities, working on the book sale, and much more. Please consider joining us for our monthly planning meeting. This month we will meeting on March 12 at 6 pm at the library. We hope you can join us. You can also support our library branch by joining or renewing your membership today. The Friends of UH Library provides financial support

to sponsor branch programming as well as help buy books and equipment. We couldn't do this without your membership dues and donations, so please pick up a Membership/Donation form at the front desk of the library.

If you would like to know more, please contact us at [friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheuhlibrary@gmail.com). As always, thank you for your continuing support of our branch library. — Isabel Schechter, Secretary, Friends of the University Heights Library

*The Friends of San Diego Public Library is a California Tax Exempt Non-Profit Corporation under IRS 501(c)(3). FEIN: 95-3313747. Tax deductible membership dues and donations may be matched by the City of San Diego and used to support programs and purchase books, materials, and equipment.*

## UH BOOK CLUB AND SALON GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN BY JAMES BALDWIN

Published in 1953, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* was James Baldwin's first major work. This semi-autobiographical novel tells the story of John Grimes, an intelligent 14-year-old in 1930s Harlem, and his relationship to his family and his church. The narrative also reveals the backstories of John's mother, his biological father, and his violent, religious fanatic stepfather, a Pentecostal minister of a storefront church.

Born in Harlem in 1924, Baldwin was a novelist, essayist, playwright, poet, social critic, and civil rights activist. The Modern Library ranked *Go Tell It on the Mountain* 39th on its list of the 100 best English language novels of the 20th century.

Join the Book Club & Salon discussion. New members are always welcome! The book will be available at the UH Library's front desk during March.

The author focuses on the role of the church in the lives of African-Americans not only as a negative source of repression and moral hypocrisy, but also as a positive source of community and inspiration. Like his protagonist John, Baldwin underwent a religious awakening at the age of 14 when he became a Pentecostal preacher.

**UH BOOK CLUB & SALON**  
Wednesday, March 27, at 6:30 pm  
San Diego Public Library  
University Heights Branch  
4193 Park Boulevard (at Howard Avenue)  
619-692 4912

# EATING OUT IN UH



American Market	4395 Cleveland Ave.	296-8333
Bahia Mexican & Seafood	1985 El Cajon Blvd.	542-0540
Bahn Thai	4646 Park Blvd.	299-6363
bfd (big front door)	4075 Park Blvd.	255-4100
<b>Cueva Bar</b>	2123 Adams Ave.	269-6612
<b>El Zarape</b>	4642 Park Blvd.	692-1652
Flavors of East Africa	2322 El Cajon Blvd.	955-8778
Grains	2201 Adams Ave.	269-5999
<b>Great Maple</b>	1451 Washington St.	296-8268
Hope at Lafayette	2223 El Cajon Blvd.	780-0358
Hundred Proof	4130 Park Blvd.	501-6404
Kairoa Brewing Company	4601 Park Blvd.	295-1355
<b>Lestat's on Park</b>	4496 Park Blvd.	501-6638
Loving Hut	1905 El Cajon Blvd.	683-9490
<b>Madison</b>	4622 Park Blvd.	296-6566
Mama's Bakery & Lebanese Deli	4237 Alabama St.	688-0717
<b>Meraki Café</b>	1735 Adams Ave.	269-9618
<b>Muzita Abyssinian Bistro</b>	4651 Park Blvd.	546-7900
<b>Mystic Mocha</b>	2105 Mission Ave.	688-0858
The Original Pickle Store	4075 Park Blvd., # 101-B	841-1108
Park Boulevard Deli	4504 Park Blvd.	295-1362
<b>Park House Eatery</b>	4574 Park Blvd.	295-7275
Pizzeria Bruno Napoletano	4207 Park Blvd.	260-1311
Pizzeria Luigi	2121 El Cajon Blvd.	294-9417
Plumeria Vegetarian Cuisine	4661 Park Blvd.	269-9989
Pomegranate Restaurant	2312 El Cajon Blvd.	297-4007
Pop Pie Co.	4404 Park Blvd.	501-4440
Red Fox Steak House	2223 El Cajon Blvd.	297-1313
<b>Red House Pizza</b>	4615 Park Blvd.	546-7430
Small Bar	4628 Park Blvd.	795-7998
<b>Sprouts Market &amp; Deli</b>	4175 Park Blvd.	291-8287
Stella Jean's Ice Cream	4404 Park Blvd.	501-8252
Summer's Market	4602 Park Blvd.	296-0504
<b>Twiggs</b>	4590 Park Blvd.	296-0616
Twisted Taps (brews & chews)	2302 El Cajon Blvd.	542-9927
Wing Stop	1901 El Cajon Blvd.	297-9464
Yipao Colombian Coffee	1728 Madison Ave.	



SCHOOL NEWS

# ROO NEWS

## ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL GARDENING



In the Roosevelt Roots Garden Club at Roosevelt International Middle School, students can get their hands dirty, grow organic food, and try some cooking. The club introduces students to eco-friendly strategies for sustainable food production, including composting and organic pest control. Cooking simple, healthy food using garden fresh ingredients is a component of the club.

Throughout the year, more than twenty seasonal plants flourish in two gardens on Roosevelt's campus. Additionally, a large greenhouse prepares crops for the coming season. The gardens are in the care of garden educator Mindy Swanson of Dig Down Deep, an organization that provides training and support for many regional garden programs, including school gardens.

"The Roosevelt Roots Garden Club is not just a place to learn and practice gardening, but a place where students can beautify their campus, cultivate tasty food, and enjoy the company of other students," said Ms. Swanson. "Since several students participated in Dig Down Deep garden classes in their

elementary school, being in the garden is a welcoming and familiar space that they really thrive in."

Seventh-grade student Stella McLure is a leader in the Garden Club. "I like working in the garden and tasting fresh produce," says Stella. "It's fun taking out weeds to clear an area so we can re-plant things." She likes to grow mint, basil, tomatoes, and kale.

Stella's planting skills enhance her life-planning skills. She plans to earn good grades and take classes that interest her. "I'm interested in the culinary program at San Diego High, and I want to be an elementary school teacher."

Garden Club is part of Roosevelt's free after-school program, funded by the Friends of Roosevelt Foundation. Help Roosevelt's gardens thrive for future generations of students by donating to [www.friendsofroschool.org/contribute](http://www.friendsofroschool.org/contribute) today. — *Jennifer Ayala, parent of students at Roosevelt and Birney and a board member of the Friends of Roosevelt Foundation*



Stella McLure, 7th grader, in the garden at Roosevelt Middle School.

# BIRNEY BUZZ



Students at Birney have been busy collecting pledges for this winter's biggest fundraiser. It's the school-wide Run for the Green, which helps fund key elements of the International Baccalaureate Program such as Art, Spanish, and Garden. The event kicks off on March 15 at 2.30 pm. If you own a business in University Heights, there is still time to become a corporate sponsor of Run for the Green. Email [info@friendsofalicebirney.org](mailto:info@friendsofalicebirney.org) for details.

When they are not busy with the fundraiser, Birney students and their parents are getting ready for the first Bed-

time Stories of the year. On March 8, the children get to venture out at night, wearing only their pajamas. They all love the opportunity to be night-owls in the auditorium, while they munch on treats as teachers, parents, and members of the community read them stories from near and afar.

Parents are looking forward to Birney's Morning Buzz on March 22. If you haven't already, come join us for some free coffee and pastries. It's a nice moment and a chance to connect, before we all go about our day. — *Sara Persson*

## IN MEMORIAM

### JOHN SMOTHERS

University Heights recently lost a long time resident here on Madison Ave. John Smothers (or Jasmoo or Jack, to those who knew him well) passed away peacefully on January 19 after an extremely long run – 97 years, to be exact!

Jasmoo not only helped end World War II, but he was instrumental in the rebuilding of Europe after the war. He was an avid runner for 42 years. Throughout that time, he managed to run marathons all over the planet while he worked for General Dynamics here in San Diego. And if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he had a five-year stint at none other than Capitol Records in Hollywood, writing copy for the covers of many well-known albums.

Jasmoo was a wonderful and talented guy, with a great sense of humor and a gift for storytelling. His stories are now my stories; and if you get me all liquored up one night, they could be yours as well. Rest easy, Jasmoo, and say hi to Bob for me! — *Stephen Wade*

### JAMES BRADLEY

James Bradley was a man you may have seen but did not know. He ambled down our alleys and streets looking for discarded aluminum cans and plastic bottles. He may have been carrying a bag of personal items hanging from a stick balanced on his shoulder. Most frequently he was seen sitting and reading under the palm on the west embankment of Texas Street as it goes downhill from the Valero gas station.

James was homeless in San Diego for decades. If you had the chance to talk to him, you would begin to understand that his struggles were no fault of his own. Many of you have approached him, given him things, or comforted him. He was a quiet man who kept to himself. In September he passed away quietly on his hillside. We notice his absence. Rest in peace, James Bradley. — *Mark Brlej*

## COMMUNITY PLANNING NEWS

### NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE AND UPTOWN PLANNERS

Spring in San Diego is community planning group election season. Community planning groups are elected boards advising the City on important development and infrastructure issues impacting our neighborhoods. University Heights is split by Park Boulevard into two planning groups: Uptown Planners on the west and North Park Planning Committee on the east.

Half of each planning group's board is elected each year. Eligibility to vote in board elections or run for a seat is typically limited to local residents, business owners, and property owners and requires prior meeting attendance and submission of a registration form.

The last opportunity to attend a North Park Planning Committee meeting and secure eligibility was the board meeting on February 19.

Uptown Planners will be electing seven people to their board at the election on March 5 for a term of four years. Interested applicants must have attended three meetings of the board within the prior twelve months prior to the meeting on March 5, and have had an election application on file with Uptown Planners by February 28. For more information about each, Uptown-Planners.org and NorthParkPlanning.org. — *Randy Wilde, Board Member, North Park Planning Committee*

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UH BEAUTIFICATION

# BUCHANAN CANYON CLEAN UP

Buchanan Canyon is roughly a two-square mile gully and hillside open space that constitutes one-third of western University Heights between Madison Ave. (on the north side) and Johnson and 10th Ave. (to the south). Every year or two homeless individuals visit the canyon and set up overnight camps, which are typically hidden from view from the rim homes and streets. If not detected, these sites can quickly become semi-permanent encampments with occupants returning on a regular basis until winter rains force abandonment. The immediate danger of wildfires during our dry season is extremely high.

Last summer, several sites were re-occupied by homeless individuals for multiple months. When recurrent activities and nocturnal disturbances were finally noticed from the canyon rims and the appropriate authorities notified, a number of public safety officers from Western Division were dispatched in order to allow the occupants 72 hours to vacate the premises under the city's current trespassing ordinance. Once

vacated around mid-November, a considerable amount of abandoned clothing, personal supplies, camping equipment, food, trash, and litter remained. Homeowners in the area were told that city clean up crews and contractors were overloaded with far more pressing homeless shelter issues elsewhere in the city, so the task of cleaning up the mess was left to those homeowners most concerned with the risk of fire and property theft.

In mid-December, following the first significant rainstorm, several UH residents hiked in, reconnoitered the three encampments, and over a two-day period cleared out the abandoned items and debris. A crew of two filled several dozen 90-gallon heavy-duty trash bags with more than 1000 pounds of waste and carried them several thousand feet down the canyon to a sewer utilities access/maintenance site shown in the attached photo. Within several days, City Public Works Division personnel were able to truck in, load up, and haul out the collected matter. — *John Kennedy*



Abandoned items after encampments removed from lower Buchanan Canyon.



Legacy remaining for next season's residents.



The youngest blockwalker for the UHCA newspaper.

## DO YOU LOVE OLD TROLLEY BARN PARK?

At first glance, our beloved park is gorgeous with its huge green lawn and large, mature trees. The city does a great job keeping the grass green and mowed and picking up the trash. But look more closely and the park shows that it needs some TLC. The lamp posts, railings, and children's table area need fresh paint. Many bushes have died, and others need trimming or are smothered in leaves and cobwebs. Recent tree cutting has left bare spots in the landscape.

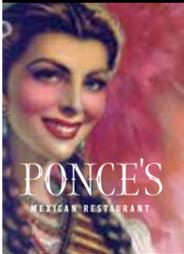
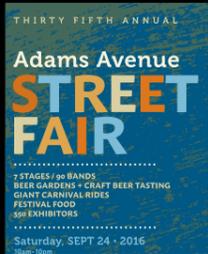
Old Trolley Barn Park, the jewel of University Heights, badly needs a person or group dedicated to shining it up and preserving it as a beautiful and functional neighborhood resource. One idea that has surfaced is to start a conservancy like those at Balboa Park and New York's Central Park. These groups have done amazing work transforming their parks, especially in NYC where just a few decades ago, people were afraid to go into the park at night and even into some parts of it in daytime. No more. Central Park is considered safe throughout and every part of it is cared for, tidy, and gorgeous!

You might ask, "Isn't the city supposed to take care of the Old Trolley Barn Park?" The answer is yes, but there are limits to what the city can do these days. You might also ask, "Isn't that what the UHCA Beautification Team does?" True, we have held park clean ups and recruited volunteers to repaint the benches (a major effort that in retrospect was a bit too much for volunteers). The fact of the matter is, the team is working on many projects to improve University Heights and cannot give the park the focus it needs.

So, what can we do? Starting a conservancy would be a tall order, and perhaps not needed for our small park, but it is worth considering. One way to start might be to find just one volunteer willing to become the "High Steward of Old Trolley Barn Park," or a small group (perhaps, "Friends of Old Trolley Barn Park?") dedicated to bringing the park back to its original glory. Could this be you? To explore the idea of taking on this worthy project, email [beautification@uhsd.org](mailto:beautification@uhsd.org) to let us know your interest. — *MaryBeth Chruden*



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POLITICAL NEWS

FROM YOUR COUNCILMEMBER

POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR 2019

This last year, we accomplished quite a lot for District Three and the City of San Diego. With so much going on and in these fast-paced times, it's often difficult to remember all of our progress.

I'm excited to share with you that this year I will be continuing my chairmanship of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee and have been appointed Vice Chair of the Committee on Active Transportation & Infrastructure, and Vice Chair of the Committee on Land Use & Housing.

With these appointments, I have an opportunity to address our most pressing concerns, like the need to move homeless families and individuals off our streets and into the types of attainable, affordable housing that all San Diegans deserve.

In the past two years, our City Council has taken critical steps to make progress on the dual crises of homelessness and insufficient affordable and workforce housing.

I intend to ensure policies are drawing on known best practices and innovative solutions, so we are able to finally implement a deliberate and holistic plan to house our homeless, ensure that development of affordable housing is proportional to our overall housing stock, and further prioritize much-needed supportive housing units.

This year, I will be continuing bi-monthly community walks to bring city business and policy to your door. As residents, you are entitled to know what

your elected officials are doing, why it's important, and its impact on your neighborhood. I also want to hear directly from you, what your concerns are, and how I can better advocate for the city services you depend on.

I will issue a memorandum to our Independent Budget Analyst stating our district's budget priorities that will continue to develop a spending plan and balance fiscal responsibility while making bold investments in San Diego's future. Our budget is a reflection of the values of our communities and illustrates my commitment to making San Diego an equitable city that is growing responsibly and addressing the needs of all neighborhoods and residents.

I encourage everyone who is able to participate in this process and share with my office your priorities. Please contact my office with your thoughts or any questions you have at 619-236-6633 or by email at christopherward@sandiego.gov. Visit my website at https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3.



Christopher Ward, San Diego City Council, District 3

FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR

MEET NATHAN FLETCHER, YOUR NEW COUNTY SUPERVISOR!

We have a new leader representing University Heights and other communities in San Diego County's Fourth District. He was sworn in to office on January 7, 2019, after his decisive victory last November.

Supervisor Fletcher's priorities are focused on improving the quality of life for people who live and work in San Diego County. He is working to improve mental health services, protect the environment and tackle climate change, address housing affordability and improve the services for our homeless population.

During his first month in office, Supervisor Fletcher effected the creation of an intergovernmental working group to develop long-term solutions for the migrant crisis, fund a mobile healthcare vehicle to serve communities, and allow nonprofits to lease a county building as a temporary shelter for families seeking asylum.

A United States Marine Corps combat veteran, Supervisor Fletcher currently serves on several boards and commissions, including the Board for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, the San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) Transportation Committee, and the San Diego Workforce Partnership.

A former California State Assemblymember, Supervisor Fletcher was recognized as one of California's most effective legislators, passing more than thirty laws.

He is also a Professor of Practice in Political Science at the University of California San Diego where he continues to teach part time through courses on public service, political science, California government, and American History. — Supervisor Nathan Fletcher



County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher represents University Heights as part of his Fourth Supervisorial District. You can follow him on Twitter @SupFletcher or contact him at Nathan.Fletcher@sdcountry.ca.gov or call 619-531-5544.

OUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

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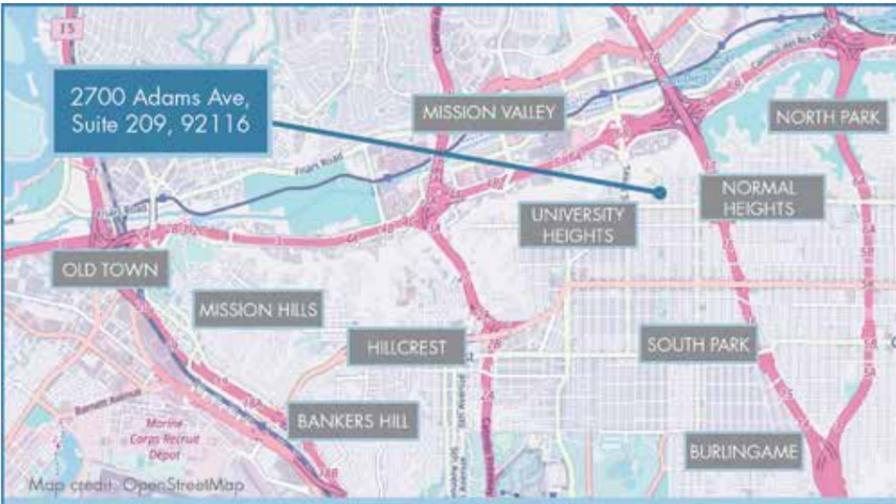
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San Diego, CA 92101
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senator@harris.senate.gov

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9:00am - 1:00pm

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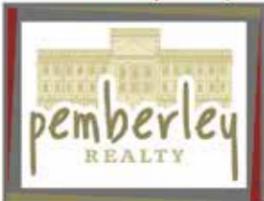


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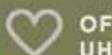
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